

Office. As the three-month shortened statutory period for reply was due January 26, 2006, a Petition for Extension of Time for one month is enclosed herewith, making this Response due by February 26, 2006, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this Response be considered timely filed

AMENDMENTS

In the Title

Please amend the Title as indicated below.

MULTI-HOST VIRTUAL BRIDGE INPUT-OUTPUT RESOURCE SWITCH

In the Drawing Figures

Applicant respectfully submits five (5) Replacement Sheets of drawing figures for the examiner's review. Applicants respectfully request that these drawing figures be accepted, used for substantive examination of the above referenced application and placed in the file wrapper thereof. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to these drawing figures, and that any changes made to the drawing figures have antecedent basis in the specification and claims as originally filed.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 11 and 18-23 without prejudice to file same in a continuation, continuation-in-part, divisional and/or co-pending application. Applicant respectfully submits amendments to the remaining claims as indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS AND STATUS THEREOF

1. **(currently amended):** An information handling system having a multi-host virtual bridge input-output **resource** switch, said system comprising:

a plurality of server modules, each of said plurality of server modules having at least one central processing unit (CPU), memory and at least one server input-output (I/O) port;

a plurality of input-output (I/O) modules, each of said plurality of input-output modules having a module I/O port **adapted for coupling to any one of the at least one server I/O port**; and

at least one input-output (I/O) switch comprising:

a plurality of input buffers, **wherein a one of the plurality of input buffers is coupled to each of the at least one server I/O port of each of the plurality of server modules and another one of the plurality of input buffers is coupled to the module I/O port of each of the plurality of I/O modules**;

a plurality of output buffers, **wherein a one of the plurality of output buffers is coupled to each of the at least one server I/O port of each one of the plurality of server modules and another one of the plurality of output buffers is coupled to the module I/O port of each of the plurality of I/O modules**;

a plurality of multiplexers, wherein said plurality of input buffers and said plurality of output buffers are coupled to said plurality of multiplexers; and

control logic for controlling said plurality of multiplexers, wherein said plurality of multiplexers determine which ones of said plurality of input buffers are coupled to which ones of said plurality of output buffers;

said at least one I/O switch is coupled to each of the at least one server I/O ports and to each of the module I/O ports, wherein said at least one I/O switch couples selected ones of the at least one server I/O ports to selected ones of the module I/O ports.

2. (original): The information handling system according to claim 1, further comprising a bridge for coupling the CPU to the memory and to the at least one server I/O port.

3. (original): The information handling system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one native input-output (I/O) device in at least one of said plurality of server modules.

4. **(currently amended):** The information handling system according to claim 3, wherein the at least one native I/O device is an interface selected from the group consisting of USB, serial, keyboard, video and mouse interfaces.

5. (original): The information handling system according to claim 1, further comprising an Ethernet controller in at least one of said plurality of server modules.

6. (original): The information handling system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one server I/O port is a serial port.

7. (original): The information handling system according to claim 1, wherein the module I/O port is a serial port.

8. (original): The information handling system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one server I/O port is a serial PCI I/O port.

9. (original): The information handling system according to claim 1, wherein the module I/O port is a serial PCI I/O port.

Claim 10 (previously canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

12. (previously presented): The information handling system according to claim 1, further comprising a mapping table coupled to said control logic, said mapping table storing which ones of said plurality of input buffers are coupled to which ones of said plurality of output buffers.

13. (original): The information handling system according to claim 12, further comprising initialization logic for initializing said control logic and said mapping table.

14. (original): The information handling system according to claim 13, wherein said initialization logic is external from said at least one I/O switch.

15. (original): The information handling system according to claim 14, wherein said initialization logic is coupled to said control logic with a low pin count interface.

16. (original): The information handling system according to claim 15, wherein the low pin count interface is selected from the group consisting of I²C and JTAG.

17. (original): The information handling system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one I/O switch is accessed through a user interface.

Claims 18-23 (canceled)

Claims 24-27 (previously canceled)